

- *Theatre is the art of telling stories through live acting.*
- *We train to be good actors because we want to be the best we can at connecting with an audience to tell stories.*
- Draw a picture of a large stick figure on a dry erase board or chart paper.
- Ask the students to list what they think makes a good actor.
- As you receive suggestions, write them as arrows coming from the stick figure.
- Some of the suggestions you should receive:
 - Can play different characters, can speak loudly, works together well, funny, can take directions, doesn't goof off (focused), etc.
 - Add any items they missed.
- *Our work from here on out will be on exploring and developing the skills necessary to be a great actor; to best act out stories and connect with an audience.*

Too often I feel like drama classes (or any classes, really) jump into lessons without taking a moment to explore why we're doing what we're doing. If every lesson stems from the central goal of "connecting with an audience to tell stories", it's much easier to stay focused and motivated when doing various activities, many of them very silly. If things ever get out of hand in the classroom, take a moment to pause and remind the students of what theatre is really all about.

ACTIVITY: Drama Game: The Mirror Activity

- *In order to play different characters and act out different situations we need to be aware of what's around us, and notice the details; Observation.*
- Pair the students up and have them assign one person an "A" and another a "B". Tell the pairs to face each other.
- When you say "action", A is to move very slowly, and B is to closely "reflect" every movement.
- Encourage the "reflection" to notice not only body movements, but facial expressions as well.
- After awhile have the partners switch.
- *The goal is to have an outside observer not be able to tell who is the leader and who is the follower.*
- Walk around the room and say you're going to choose two pairs who you think are the best "reflections".
- Have everyone sit and focus on these two pairs. Allow them to guess who is leading and who is following.
- For older groups, consider adding [Mirror: 4 Person Variation](#).

The "Mirror Activity" is so common in drama classes because it works. It's just as effective with 1st graders as it is with 8th graders.

Consider playing calming, instrumental music after you say "Action" to enhance the focus and experience.

ACTIVITY: Drama Game: Quick Change

- Have the students seated in a circle.
- Choose one student to be the "changer". Let the class study his/her appearance for 1 second. Ask the "changer" to leave the room out of sight.